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Dr. Barnes, who is Associate Professor of Physics at McGill University, Montreal, has had special opportunities for studying the difficulties which the ice causes in the St. Lawrence River in spite of the fact that the temperature of the water "never varies more than a few thousandths of a degree from the freezing-point even though the temperature of the air may be 30° or 40° lower." He discusses the three kinds of ice—surface ice, anchor ice, formed in the bed of a river, and frazil, which consists of small individual crystals at the surface.

Frazil causes most trouble. It is formed in rapids, takes refuge under surface ice, in the quiet water below them, and adheres to its under surface. Thus the ice becomes thicker and thicker until it often chokes the channel of the river and causes a flood. Frazil also clogs machinery and thus interferes with the use of water power at Montreal.

By using the Callendar platinum resistance thermometer, Dr. Barnes was able to make observations of great accuracy as to the conditions existing when frazil and anchor ice are formed. The results of his temperature observations are among the most important in the book. He treats of the natural processes of heat transferance, the physical constants of ice, the various methods of determining ice structure, water temperatures, and other questions useful to students of the subject.

The remainder of his book is devoted to an exhaustive study of anchor ice and frazil, and the interference of the latter with the use of water-power machinery. He believes that "a thorough understanding of the laws underlying the formation of ice will lead to methods, as it has already done in part, which will so temper the effects of ice in our northern rivers as to render them no longer a bar to the full development and utilization of our vast water powers."

The World's Peoples. A Popular Account of Their Bodily and Mental Characters, Beliefs, Traditions, Political and Social Institutions. By A. H. Keane. xii and 434 pp., 270 Illustrations from Photographs, and Index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1908. (Price, \$2.)

Dr. Keane's aim was to present in a volume of moderate size a clear and comprehensive picture of the people of the world as they exist to-day. It was a task requiring much compression, for the subject is vast and room had to be made also for an exceptionally large number of illustrations. In spite of the narrow limits, however, Dr. Keane has given an edifying and adequate treatment to the great subject in all its broader aspects. Only one who is a master of the subject could do this, and then only by avoiding debatable topics and limiting detailed treatment of primitive ways to the more important savage peoples. The book deals with the established facts of anthropology and is a very interesting and profitable discussion of man as he is to-day. Hundreds of truth-telling photographs reënforce the text. There is a place for this popular account of the human race written with literary skill and scientific judgment.

La France, Tableau Géographique par V. P. Vidal de la Blache. Pp. viii-366. 4to. Hachette et Cie., Paris, 1908.

Aside from the illustrations and some very fair maps, the chief merit of this ponderous volume consists in broad margins and a certain number of blank pages. The text, after careful reading, leaves two impressions; one, of what Hamlet calls "Words, words, words"; the other, of admiration for the author who has